

No. 5790 號百七十五第 日六初月二年子丙緒光 HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1st, 1876. 三拜禮 號一月三英 港香 [PRICE \$2] PER MONTH.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents,
5, Hongkong, 26th February, 1876,

Extracts:

RIDE IN FAIRYLAND.

All night the great elm shook for fear
And writhed as if in pain,
Between the pines of my sleep
I heard the gusty rain;
Quite sick of this world and unarm'd,
I rode away to Fairyland.

All night the howling of the storm
The crazy chimney ruckel and shook;
Till weary of this sound of woe,
Weary of pen, and ink, and book,
A bridle enfolded with careless hand,
And rode an hour in Fairyland.

1, as I flew along,

The quondam's banished sinners and sinners,
Yea, every day of his banished sinners' lives,
That thralls and thralls, but will not break,
I sought for Othello and his band,
And rode long leagues through Fairland.

I found the court; in love and dance
I whirled away the summer hours;
LADIES I broke and quaffed the cup,
Where fell a rain of crimson flowers,
They all obeyed my proud commands,
These little folk in Fairland.

I won the Fairy court at last,
And built a castle tall and proud;
The roof was sunning, and the walls
Were formed of rainbow and of cloud,
I bled the goblins on my way—
A slant—I woke, and it was day.

—All the Year Round.

DULL GREAT MEN

There is a use not generally traced out, and which has much to do with embourgeoisement of prices, and for which the remedy lies in the hands of individuals as well as of classes in combination. This causes the custom of allowing a commission—known in trade-vernacular as “regulars”—to servants in the employ of the consumer, upon commodities bought by him. Many educated and honest-keeping persons are especially ignorant of the existence of this system, or ignorant at all events of the vast extent to which it is carried. Upon a new carriage the coachman expects from 25 upwards for himself, as his “regulars” for “passing” the goods to his master’s possession; upon a new set of double harness, two guineas; upon a horse, if bought from a dealer, a fee varying from a sovereign to ten per cent upon the price, according to whether the horse is bought in the stable or in the open market; upon a pair of his groom, if the horse is bought direct by the master, even from a private gentleman, still the purchaser’s groom looks for a sovereign; and if the vendor does not hand one over, the vendor’s groom will, by the freemasonry of the trade, attempt to obtain it for his friend by charging it on the weekly stable book as money paid out, and assuring his master that it is the groom’s cook or washer who gives it apart from the outrageous question of perquisites, which would form material for a separate (disquisition) looks for a fee or per centum, from butcher, grocer, baker, con-

WHERE THE BOULDERS COME FROM

merchant; the coachman from the coach chamber; and Mr. Leslie's recent case shows us the relations of the tradesman to the gardener. Let the producer in any case decline to pay these regulations items of black mail, he will be the loser by it in the long run. The new law from the dealer will then be scarry and ragged in his coat, and possibly even lame; the paint on the new carriage will crack; and the windows rattle, and the wheels will be noisy. The meat, too, the butcher's meat and groceries will never give satisfaction at the master's table. The sequel will be the same in each case; that, when the master is at last driven to complain of the unsatisfactory nature of his purchases, the servant will confidentially hint that the tradesman is anything but a tradesman, and that he will not be long in finding himself better pleased if he deals alone. The origin of this custom is with tradesmen; by offering a fee to servants to stimulate the production of custom, they have constituted the servants of the consumer-commission agents to the producer. The yoke, however, of the master has been put on the servant, and many a tradesman would gladly shake it off, if he could do so without injuring his own prospects of trade. But, as we have shown, he cannot so emancipate himself without turning against him the very agents who otherwise are content to foster him in their own interests. These commissions and fees that he has to pay come from the pockets of his master, his people, his customers, unless he is to fail, must look to a fair trade return upon his outlay and expense of his establishment; every additional item of outlay must compel him to raise the price of the article sold. Could he, by striking off the

IMPSEST'S."

In many cases that the increase of trade raises his outlay to his agents; but he also in other cases finds the price which he is thus compelled to put upon his goods, so as to secure a fair return, act as a deterrent to the consumer, urging the latter to reduce his purchases. It is thus possible to also find that his agents become more and more rapacious, and demand a higher percentage, in proportion as they felt the custom of the tradesman to be at their mercy. The tradesman who single handed should first set his face against this system, and should expose it to his customer, promising exactness in his dealing, and that he would not let the servants were abused, would be a loser. He would become a marked man to servants, whose a body would set themselves to drive away custom from one who interfered with their recognised dues. The extent to which this black mail is carried may be gathered from two cases which have recently come to our knowledge, for in the first, a careful examination of the accounts showed that about 30 per cent. was charged by the tradesman above the value of the goods supplied, the groom only getting one shilling out of ten on each weekly bill, and the cook in about the same proportion. In the other, a change of cook from a dishonest to an honest one brought about a saving of 10 per cent. on the average, in a family of eight persons, without any change in the table applied to them; which sum could not possibly be accounted for by superior management, and must have been divided between the tradesman—limited in this case to butcher, greengrocer, and to a very small extent the grocer, since the bulk of any groceries are supplied by the same man, and the same store. Here, then, we find a loss in each case of about 30 per cent. to the master, with a considerable proportional gain to the servants and tradesmen; and this we believe to represent something like the wasteful expenditure which has driven householders into the co-operative system, which, unfortunately, can with no more success be applied to the supply of the necessities of life, mentioned above, than

POSITION OF MAN IN STATISTIC RETURNS.

of equity that no one in a fiduciary position can be suffered to make profit out of his trust, unless with the distinct consent of his principal. When a servant is employed by a master as his agent to effect a bargain for him, it is clear that the master is entitled to all profit that the servant may reap by his agency becomes equitably the property of his master, and can be recovered by the latter at law, on the other hand, the master does his own marketing, and the servant simply claims "regulars" from the tradesmen as a reason for not depreciating the latter's goods, then, if the latter refuses to pay the servant, and the servant pretends, for the purpose of obtaining credit, that he attempts to extort money by menace, and if it can be shown that more than one servant join in this system of menace or depreciation of custom, indictment for conspiracy will also lie. Masters are often indolent and prefer to submit to plunder from their servants rather than to face the ordeal of self-protection. Tradesmen have, as we have shown, their own interests to look after, and must not be regarded as doing their duty by not joining in a class against them. As the same time the success of co-operative stores shows us that there is still some energy left among consumers to protect their purses, even at the expense of personal trouble. Tradesmen also have long ago learnt to protect themselves against other sorts of predatory attacks by organisation of trade protection societies. Let these two principles be accepted as a Tradesman's and Consumers' Protection Society, the fundamental principle of which should be that no tradesman underbidding should pay any "regulars" under any pretences, but all should sell cheaply in consequence; and that the consumers should confine their custom (as far as is reasonably possible, short of emigration) to such tradesmen, and, if they are a whole or in part, all legal expenses incurred in such manner as we have above pointed out, either by masters suing servants for moneys received by them as agents for their masters, or by tradesmen in prosecuting attempts at extortion by menace or conspiracy.—*Edw.*

HONG KONG MARKET

As Reported by Chinese on the 20th Feb.

WOOLLEN GOODS

July, 1876.	Blankets, 7 lbs.
	" 8 lbs.
	" 1 lb.

Birds' Nests, 1st quality.....	60
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